

# Monthly Communicator

New Jersey Department of Human Services  
*Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing*

December 2005

Vol. 26



RICHARD J. CODEY, ACTING GOVERNOR

JAMES M. DAVY, COMMISSIONER

BRIAN C. SHOMO, DIRECTOR

## State of New Jersey Selects Sprint to Provide Relay Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

*New Call Center Opening in Vineland*

**OVERLAND PARK, KAN. -**

**OCT. 25, 2005** - New Jersey has awarded Sprint (NYSE: S) a three-year, multi-million dollar Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) contract to provide assistive communications services to the deaf and hard of hearing within the state. Sprint replaces AT&T as the state's official provider of TRS, and will become responsible for delivering more than 200,000 minutes of assistive communications services each month. New Jersey joins 30 states, Puerto Rico, New Zealand and the federal government, who also benefit from Sprint Relay services.

The new Sprint Relay services will be available beginning February 1, 2006, within New Jersey by dialing 711 or one of several toll-free numbers. The complete portfolio of Sprint Relay services also will be available to New Jersey citizens, including Sprint Relay Online, Video Relay Service, CapTel Relay Service and Relay Conference Captioning.

Sprint is also working with Communication Services for the Deaf (CSD) to open a relay service center

in Vineland, N.J., which will be dedicated to support Sprint relay traffic in New Jersey. The center will employ approximately 50 people who will serve as communication assistants, the intermediary for communications between a deaf user and a hearing party. The center will open by February 1, 2006.

"I am particularly pleased that we are establishing the relay center in Vineland," said Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew. "This will create 50 jobs that will enhance economic development efforts in Cumberland County. I've been very pleased to work on this project with New Jersey Bureau of Public Utilities (BPU) President Jeanne Fox and officials from Sprint," Van Drew said, adding, "We owe them a great deal of gratitude."

"As this new phase of relay service delivery developed, the BPU's top priority has been to see this is located right here in our state, because we feel that best serves the approximately 720,000 hearing impaired residents of New Jersey," said President Fox. "We thank Assemblyman Van Drew for his leadership and for making the eco-

*(Continued on page 4)*



**Page 3**

Pizzo v. Ellis

**Page 5**

CEPIN Prepared

**Page 7**

Senior Housing



# Sign Language Classes Offered

**R**aritan Valley Community College, Corporate & Continuing Education in North Branch NJ is offering American Sign Language classes. The classes are taught by George Johnston, NJ Certified Teacher of the Deaf and American Sign Language Teacher's Association Certified & Rosemarie Johnston, from the American Sign Language Teacher's Association. The class' objectives are promoting cultural awareness, vocabulary development and practical conversational skills. American Signs in straight English word order, with voice, is used in all classes. All classes are held on Wednesday evenings in two sessions. Session 1 is Feb 8 - April 12. Session 2 is Apr 26-June 28 and are \$126 per level.

**Sign Language I 5:45-7:35 p.m.**

**Sign Language II 7:45-9:35 p.m.**

**Sign Language III 7:45-9:35 p.m.**

**Sign Language IV 5:45-7:35 p.m.**

## *Sign Language Intensive Total Communication Weekend*

Participate in a weekend-long immersion program to study and promote the learning of American Signs in straight English word order (with voice). The program is designed for beginners as well as advanced students. An interactive workshop aims to promote cultural awareness, vocabulary development, and improvement of conversational skills in Sign Language. The event is Friday - Sunday, Apr 7, 8 & 9 at the beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. The cost is \$180 and includes meals. If registering after March 31, please add an additional \$20 per person. Space is limited so register early. For more information or to register for classes, please visit [www.raritanval.edu/cce](http://www.raritanval.edu/cce), call (908) 218-8871 Voice or e-mail [cce@raritanval.edu](mailto:cce@raritanval.edu).

## Job Available

***Substitute Sign Language Interpreter*** - Southern Regional High School District is currently seeking substitute Sign Language Interpreters to work in our district on an as needed/per diem basis. Please send or fax a resume and letter of interest to: Supervisor of Special Services, 75 Cedar Bridge Road, Manahawkin, NJ 08050 or (609) 978-9373 Fax.

### READERS NOTE:

**T**he Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing realizes that the Monthly Communicator (MC) may not always be received as quickly as we would like. Therefore, it is always posted promptly on the DHS' DDHH Web site for your perusal. Please check the Web site for the MC and other DDHH publications at:  
[www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh)

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*DDHH provides information, referral, and*

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*provided by others does not imply endorsement by DDHH or the State of New Jersey. There are currently 8,600 copies of the*

*MC distributed monthly.*

Deadline for submissions: First of the month for the following month's edition

# Deaf Woman's Challenge to Ellis Island to Impact Loudly Through National Parks

By Jerry Jastrab, Prime Times in Bergen County (republished with permission)

**ROSE PIZZO** was sure she was right about Ellis Island having to provide a sign-language interpreter for her group.

After four years of tugging and warring with the National Park Service, the deaf woman from Fair Lawn prevailed in a victory that also ensures the vital service will be available at U.S.- managed historic sites across the country. "I wouldn't give up because it made me so mad," Pizzo said, signing her comments to Judy Jonas, who interpreted for PrimeTimes.



Rose Pizzo

It was four years ago when the Deaf Senior Citizens of Bergen County arranged a trip to Ellis Island. Pizzo, who heads the group, hoped to learn what her parents faced when they immigrated from Italy in the 1930s. Based in the Northwest Bergen Regional Senior Center in Midland Park, Pizzo asked Center Director Trish Arslanian to request sign language interpreters for the 40 members who wanted to visit Ellis Island, a service that the National Park Service provides under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

In other sites, the Park Service provides a sign language interpreter who relays to the deaf what is being said by the Park Ranger serving as a guide. But Ellis Island turned down the request, stating it was unable to comply. I was totally shocked, Pizzo said, so I told Trish to try again. A call to Ellis Island Assistant Superintendent Frank Mills was not immediately returned. The first request was in 2001, with a formal complaint filed in September 2004. Asked by PrimeTimes what happened in the intervening years, Pizzo's answer required no interpretation. Pizzo effects a comically frustrated expression and moves her hand back and forth, again and again. The result is hilarious and everyone in the room including Pizzo winds up laughing. Her answer is clear even before Jonas gives her interpretation. It just went back and forth, back and forth.

In 2004, Pizzo asked Arslanian to contact Marc Chamatz, Staff Attorney at the National Association for the Deaf

(NAD), who advised Pizzo and her group to make the Ellis Island trip, hiring their own interpreters, which they did. With Ellis Island's history brought to life for them by the Park Rangers stories, and the interpreter's sign language, the visit was a success, but an expensive one.

In September 2004, Chamatz filed a Disability Discrimination Complaint with the Park Service's parent agency, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), asserting that Pizzo's organization had been denied equal access to Ellis Island. The complaint requested reimbursement for the Deaf Senior Citizens group's cost for the interpreters, which Pizzo calculated at \$1,950.

Now the DOI agreed, stating that interpreters must be provided and promising to refund the full amount requested. For Pizzo, the victory is even more important for other deaf visitors and groups to Ellis Island as well as other National Parks. County Executive Dennis McNerney agreed and arranged a celebration to herald the victory by Pizzo, who was aided throughout by Jonas and Arslanian. A proclamation presented by McNerney at the celebration, referring to the DOI agreement, stated that this decision is not only a victory for the Bergen County Deaf Senior Citizens, but for all persons with disabilities and their struggle to be afforded all the opportunities available in our society.

## *A lifetime struggle*

It took Pizzo, 73, much of her life to realize that the deaf deserve much more than they've been used to getting. Interpreters are vital in settings like hospitals, she said, and alarms for emergencies like fire should register visually as well as in sound. She doesn't have to find new causes, Arslanian said. They come to her. The deaf are so underserved, but raising a family was enough of a cause for decades. After growing up in Queens, N.Y., Rose Infantino married Vincent Pizzo, whom she first met when she was seven. Moving to Fair Lawn about 50 years ago, Rose and Vincent, who is also deaf, had three children, all of them hearing.

The deaf community calls such children CODAs, Children of Deaf Adults. Pizzo used that word for another addition to the family, a hearing ear dog that jumps around the house when, for example, a carbon monoxide alarm sounds.

Pizzo also took time to write a book by signing it to Jonas. Growing Up Deaf was published by the Xlibris Corporation in 2000, describing a struggle that even Pizzo's sister said she never realized was going on.

conomic viability of this district a priority. With Sprint's experience and Vineland's top-notch labor pool to provide the talent, this will be a win-win situation for everyone," said Fox.

"Sprint is dedicated to broadening the availability of enhanced communications services and technologies for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing," said Mike Ligas, director of Sprint Relay. "We're excited to begin serving New Jersey citizens by offering them new relay services and by bringing new jobs to the state with the relay service center in Vineland."

Traditional Relay Service involves a relay operator serving as an intermediary for phone calls between a deaf user and a hearing party. The TRS operator speaks words typed by a deaf user on a text telephone (TTY) or via the Internet, and relays the hearing person's spoken response by typing back to the deaf user.

"As a dentist, I have been able to help my deaf patients utilize TRS. The service provides communications without frustration or embarrassment," Van Drew said.

### **Video Relay Service**

Video Relay Service (VRS) provides American Sign Language (ASL) users with an attractive alternative that offers them the opportunity to communicate by video conferencing, using ASL their native language, which may be preferred over the traditional TTY relay service. VRS requires users to have a personal computer or television monitor, a Web camera or videophone and high-speed Internet connectivity such as cable and DSL. Sprint Video Relay, powered by Communication Services for the Deaf (CSD), is a free service available through the Internet that enables the deaf or hard of hearing user to communicate in ASL to a hearing or standard telephone user. Sprint and CSD launched the first nationwide Video Relay Service in May 2002. To connect with a video interpreter visit: [www.sprintvrs.com](http://www.sprintvrs.com).

### **Sprint Relay Online**

Sprint Relay Online is also a free service that combines TRS with the ease and ubiquity of the Internet, allowing users to make calls from any PC or Web-

enabled Internet device without having to use traditional TTY equipment. To connect with a Sprint Relay Online operator visit: [www.sprintrelayonline.com](http://www.sprintrelayonline.com).

### **CapTel**

CapTel is an assistive technology aimed at easing communications for the more than 24 million Americans who are hard of hearing, have experienced hearing loss later in life or are deaf individuals with good vocalization skills. CapTel is a leading-edge technology developed by Ultratec, Inc. of Madison, Wis., that also requires a special CapTel-equipped phone in order to place a call through the CapTel Relay Service. The CapTel phone works like any traditional phone with callers talking and listening to each other, but with one very significant difference - captions are provided live for every call. The captions are displayed on the CapTel phone's built-in screen so the user can read the words while listening to the voice of the other party. This allows conversations to flow more naturally, allowing for normal interruptions and expressed emotions. CapTel services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

### **Relay Conference Captioning**

Relay Conference Captioning, developed by Caption Colorado, is a free service that combines real-time captioning and standard relay service to provide relay conference captioning calls for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals in New Jersey. By using an Internet text streaming platform supported by skilled captioners, RCC provides highly accurate real-time captioned text for any live conference call.

### **Sprint Relay Portfolio of Services**

Sprint has 15 years of experience in providing relay services to persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind or who have a speech disability to communicate with hearing persons on the phone. Sprint's experience in the field provides the assurance that all Sprint Relay services will meet or exceed Federal Communications Commission requirements for telecommunications relay services. Relay service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with no restrictions on the number of calls placed or call length. For more information, visit [www.sprintrelay.com](http://www.sprintrelay.com).



# Are You Ready?

By Jim House (with permission by The CEPIN Project at TDI)

This past September was extraordinary. The Gulf Coast was battered with two major hurricanes. New Orleans was spared a direct hit from Katrina, but the levees could not handle the tremendous amount of water. The storm surge caused several breaches that flooded 80% of the city.

Smaller towns west of New Orleans that survived the first hurricane were obliterated by Rita three weeks later.

Many people lost their homes and are now beginning their lives anew in other states.

The Community Emergency Preparedness Information Network (CEPIN) team immediately went to the aid of hurricane survivors who were deaf and hard of hearing. Our Midwest regional center, CSD of Oklahoma in Tulsa, was the closest center and automatically the point of contact. CEPIN Regional Specialist Kristina Hakey, recently became certified to work in rescue with her local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). She immediately started looking for deaf and hard of hearing survivors. Kristina's manager, Glenna Cooper, called upon a network of professionals she had collaborated with in the past to ensure that every deaf and hard of hearing survivor had access to information. CSD donated additional manpower and videophones for installation in the Houston Astrodome and other shelters in Austin, Dallas and San Antonio.

Lise Hamlin from Northern Virginia Resource Center, another CEPIN regional center, covered

Alabama, Florida and Mississippi. While the media was focused on the plight of New Orleans, states east of Louisiana sustained more damage from Katrina. Lise received a call from a woman whose niece was listed as "dead" in the now-infamous e-mail listing the "deaths" of 17 deaf people. To make

a long story short, Lise was able to reunite that woman with her niece, who was very much alive. Four others on that list were also confirmed to be alive. As the tragedy spread nationwide with the largest displacement of families since the Civil War, our other regional specialists worked closely with officials waiting to receive displaced survivors. Several deaf and hard of hearing survivors went to other states and received

support from local services at their destinations. All of us kept local and federal officials informed of things that were not happening, such as accessible television news bulletins and interpreter access into shelters. September was the second annual National Preparedness Month.

CEPIN was involved with 20 workshops and other disaster preparedness events in seven states. The hurricanes have sparked a renewed interest in being prepared, an interest unseen since 9/11. We are continuing to learn new lessons from Katrina and Rita, and will be more prepared than ever for any upcoming disasters.

*House is the national coordinator for the CEPIN Project at TDI. He may be reached at [jimhouse@tdi-online.org](mailto:jimhouse@tdi-online.org).*



# Senator Vitale Speaks to DDHH Advisory Council

**O**n Friday, October 28, the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Council had the pleasure of listening to NJ State Senator Joseph Vitale make a presentation. He gave an overview of bill



Senator Vitale, standing, offers insights into the legislative process.

S1253 also known as "Grace's Law" which would provide hearing aid assistance to children. Senator Vitale spoke about the origin of the health-care commission which requires bills to be studied and reviewed before being posted for a vote. A discussion followed with a question and answer period which proved to be very educational for all who attended. The meeting was held at the East Brunswick Public Library. DDHH Advisory Council meetings are conducted quarterly and are announced to the public through the Monthly Communicator newsletter, which may be acquired free by contacting DDHH at 800-792-8339 V/TTY.

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Jeanine Gleba, the mom of which "Grace's Law" is named, discusses the need for hearing aid assistance for children.



Gary Kirsch, President of NJ AG Bell, advocates for children with hearing loss.

## State Screening on Hold

**D**ue to the reduction of staff at the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing within the Interpreter Referral Service, as well as increased volume of interpreter requests, the division is continuing to put the screening of uncertified sign language interpreters on hold. Once this staffing shortage has been remedied, screening and interpreter assessment will resume. The waiting list for taking the screening will continue to be maintained. To all of those who have been inquiring about the screening, thank you for your patience.

## Mark your calendar!

**Signing Santa will visit the Shore Mall,**  
6725 Black Horse Pike,  
Egg Harbor Township, NJ,  
located at the  
Garden State Parkway  
Exits 36 N & S on  
**Saturday and Sunday,**  
**December 10 and 11**  
**from noon to 2 p.m.**

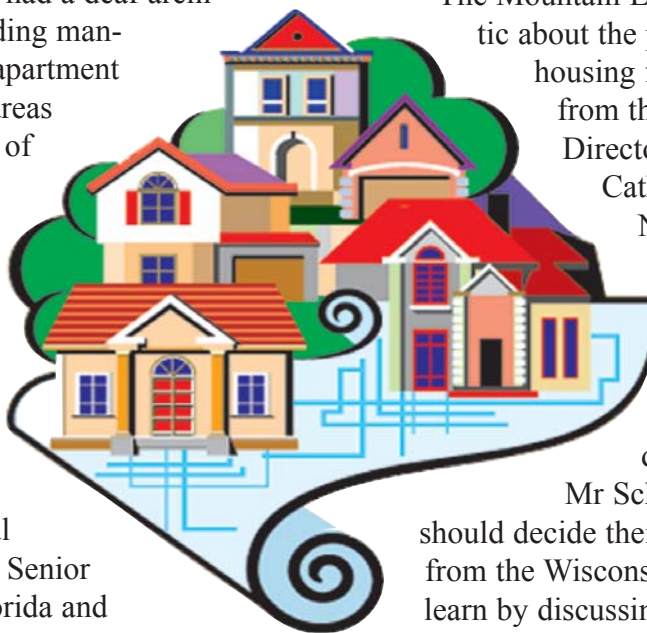
each day. Santa "signs" and speaks with all children. He is especially communicative with deaf and hard of hearing children. For more information call (609) 484-9500 Voice.



# Affordable Senior Housing

By Jane A. Cyran, Ph.D.

**W**ater Tower View, Affordable Senior Housing for deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind seniors, in Greenfield, Wisconsin, had its grand opening on September 22, 2005, only three years after starting the project. The Water Tower View project had a deaf architect and now has two building managers who are deaf. Each apartment has a videophone and all areas are designed for the needs of deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind residents. This \$5.4 million facility has 43 one and two bedroom apartments and is a joint project of the SWDSC (Southeastern Wisconsin Deaf Senior Citizens, Inc.) and Cardinal Capital Management, Inc. Cardinal Capital is also working on Senior housing for the deaf in Florida and Arizona.



On Oct. 14, 2005 at St. Peter's Church in Mountain Lakes, the Deaf Seniors of Northwest New Jersey saw a presentation by Erich Schwenker, President, Cardinal Capital, on developing affordable housing for deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind seniors. Key groups working on the project in Wisconsin were a deaf leadership group, Cardinal Capital and the Architect firm. Cardinal Capital had the responsibility for developing funding sources and getting the building built. The Wisconsin deaf senior group started the project with only \$5,000 and Cardinal Capital was able to secure the \$5.4 million for the project by obtaining bonds, tax credits and grants. The deaf leadership group worked with other deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind groups in the Wisconsin area to determine the goals of the project and needs of the community, e.g., good lighting, a desirable location near shopping, etc. The architect was more able to be sensitive to these needs since he is also deaf. A strong team with real partnership worked together to move this project forward to

meet the goals of the community and get this project built in Wisconsin. Lila Taylor from DAWN had previously seen a presentation by Cardinal Capital at the Deaf Senior Conference in San Francisco.

The Mountain Lakes audience was very enthusiastic about the possibility of building Senior housing for the deaf in NJ. Jason Weiland from the DDHH and Tom Smith, Director of the Ministry with the Deaf at Catholic Community Services (CCS), Newark, also attended. Questions from the audience included those on age and income limitations at the Wisconsin project. Others commented that this housing should be open to all of the NJ deaf senior community members.

Mr Schwenker said that the group should decide their priorities and goals might differ from the Wisconsin group. The NJ group could learn by discussing the project with the Wisconsin group and visiting Water Tower View. To move forward with Senior housing for the Deaf community will require the support of many groups and the hard work and dedication of a core group of about ten people.

**T**he Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing conference scheduled for April 2006 at the Marriott Hotel in Trenton, New Jersey has been cancelled. The Division will keep readers updated on plans for a similar conference or workshop in the future.



# ASL Story Hours Promote English Literacy for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

**T**he New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped (NJLBH), located at 2300 Stuyvesant

Ave. in Trenton, a division of the NJ State Library, held its monthly Children's ASL Story Hour on October 18. New Jersey children's author and Bergenfield Public Library director Mary Riskind read her non-fiction book Apple is My Sign.



Ms. Riskind had prepared color copies of the front cover of her book, which she autographed and presented to audience members. She also donated an autographed copy of her book to the Marie H. Katzenbach School Library. Ms. Riskind shared her life experience as the

hearing child of two deaf parents. She told the audience that she grew up thinking of herself as a member of the deaf community since American Sign Language was her first language.



After Ms. Riskind's

presentation, certified therapy dogs from the Kindred Souls Canine Center joined the children for the Story Hour. Pete Campione demonstrated a new trick. He selected a Katzenbach student, who lay on the floor while Toby the therapy dog jumped back and forth over his body. The crowd loved the performance! Pete Campione had written and illustrated his own book, The St. Bernard is in the Yard, and presented copies to the children. He provided his autograph in response to popular demand.

With more than 76 people present, the story hour was a huge success. Ms. Riskind was a captivating storyteller and gave a moving account of her personal experience. Mr. Campione was also fantastic!

Signed by ASL interpreters provided by the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation illustrating each page along with the reader, the Story Hour promotes English literacy

skills for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing by enabling them to enjoy simultaneously ASL and English versions of books.

Workshops and events such as the story hour are scheduled by Christine Olsen, Coordinator of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Program at the NJLBH. For more information on the DHHAP program and story hours, contact Christine Olsen at 877-882-5593 TTY or [colsen@njstatelib.org](mailto:colsen@njstatelib.org).

## About the New Jersey Library for Blind and Handicapped

- ✓ We are a division of the New Jersey State Library.
- ✓ We offer more than 96,000 books and magazines in Braille, recorded and large print formats.
- ✓ We broadcast seven NJ newspapers statewide through a radio reading service.
- ✓ We loan assistive technology from the NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.
- ✓ We administer telephone access to more than 200 nationwide newspapers through Commission-sponsored NFB-NEWSLINE.
- ✓ We provide audio-described videos.
- ✓ We loan Assistive Listening Devices for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- ✓ We offer monthly ASL Story Hours for second, third, fourth, and fifth graders from the MKSD and the public.
- ✓ We have the largest Braille collection in the state, 13,000 volumes.
- ✓ Our consumers range from 4 to 107 years old.
- ✓ Of our 12,000 customers, 1900 are 21 or younger.

For more information on the NJLBH, contact Anne McArthur, Head of Outreach, at (609) 530-3242 Voice or [amcarthur@njstatelib.org](mailto:amcarthur@njstatelib.org).

The mission of the NJ State Library is to lead in the provision, promotion and support of high quality library and information services to all people of New Jersey. The State Library includes a public law library; a New Jersey collection; government and state documents; foundations and genealogy collections; and reference services for state government and the residents of New Jersey. Last year, attendance in New Jersey's public libraries was 41,753,411 with total circulation of almost 52 million, an increase of almost 300,000. For information on the State Library and its programs contact Nancy Dowd (609) 777-4509 Voice.



# NWJAD'S ASL Storytelling Contest

## *A Different Kind of Excitement*

On October 1, 2005, Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf, Inc. (NWJAD) hosted their 12th annual ASL Storytelling Contest in honor of Deaf Awareness Week. This event has always been an exciting night at NWJAD. This year there was a different kind of excitement.

NWJAD's tradition is for the first place contest winner to be the host for the following year's event. Last year's winner was Rocco Devito, who drove all the way from his home in Virginia to be in the contest.

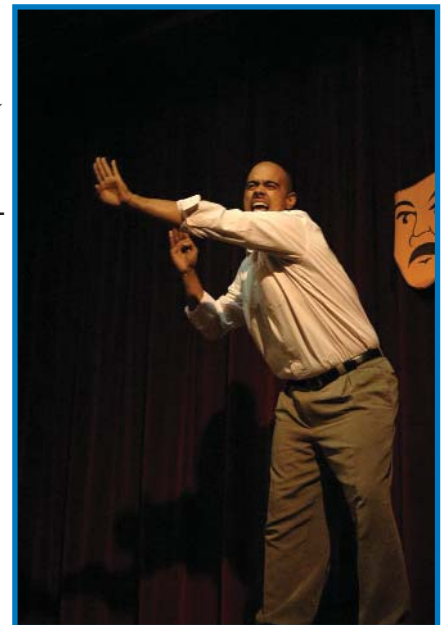
When it was time to plan this year's event, no one was able to locate and contact Rocco! The second place winner, Joyce Ververs, kindly agreed to host instead. Joyce and the emcee, Tom Montemorano, worked hard to

create a fun night. Imagine the shock and surprise on October first, when people arrived at the church to set up and found Rocco there waiting! Rocco

again drove all the way from Virginia to keep the promise he had made when he won first prize last year. Joyce graciously agreed to have Rocco host the event, and Tom and Rocco went on to provide a terrific show.

That was pretty amazing since they had no rehearsal. Joyce also didn't want NWJAD to break the 12 year tradition. Kudos and many

thanks to the wonderful judges; Angela Munn, Bryan Ross, and Darlene Sarnouski, and terrific auditors, Rusty Rosen and Rick Sarkisian. A huge thank you also goes to the many great volunteers who worked so hard to make this night such a big success. Many were brave to get on the stage and tell wonderful stories. The winners were David Rivera, Rose Pizzo, Eileen Forestal, Diane Drury, Diane Montemorano and Jason Norman. Guess what? The first place winner and official host for next year's contest is Joyce Ververs!





## **2005 MKSD BASKETBALL TIP OFF TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

**Friday December 9 and  
Saturday December 10**

### **Friday, December 9**

1:00 pm Middle school girls MKSD vs Lake Drive  
2:00 pm Middle school boys MKSD vs Lake Drive  
4:00 pm Girls' Varsity Delaware SD vs Scranton SD  
5:30 pm Boys Varsity Delaware SD vs Scranton SD  
7:00 pm Girls' Varsity Katzenbach SD vs. New York SD  
8:30 pm Boys Varsity Katzenbach SD vs. New York SD

### **Saturday, December 10**

8:30 am Girls Varsity Consolation Game  
10:00 am Boys Varsity Consolation Game  
11:30 am Girls Varsity Championship Game  
1:00 pm Boys Varsity Championship Game  
2:15 pm Trophy Presentation

### **Admission:**

Children under 6 - free;  
7 – 12 years of age, \$3 per day;  
Above 12 years of age, \$5 per day.

Info: Martha Fowler, Katzenbach Athletic Director,  
(609) 530-3183 Voice,  
[Fowler@mkzd.state.nj.us](mailto:Fowler@mkzd.state.nj.us), [mart491@aol.com](mailto:mart491@aol.com), (609) 530-3129 TTY

# ADARA Holds Successful Workshop

The NJ Chapter of ADARA (NJADARA) hosted an all day workshop entitled “Enhancing Deaf and Hearing Productivity in the Workplace” on Friday, October 21, 2005 at the Ramada Inn in East Brunswick. This workshop was presented by Dr. Irene Leigh, a deaf professor at the Clinical Psychology doctorate program at Gallaudet University and Dr. Alan Marcus, Director of Student Support Services at Maryland School for the Deaf in Frederick, a CODA (child of deaf adult) himself. They provided insightful, thought-provoking and inspiring information about issues that arise when deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind individuals interact with their hearing co-workers. Interestingly, this workshop was attended by approximately 50 individuals, including several who did not know sign language and were not familiar with deaf culture.

The all too frequent mantra of “we’ll fill you in later” uttered by hearing supervisors to their deaf employees when staff meetings are called and no interpreters are secured was discussed. Additionally, the workshop explored how identity and attitudes are formed and how these may influence thoughts and behaviors between hearing and deaf individuals. The interactive workshop allowed the audience to practice techniques designed to help one become more aware of, and sensitive to, another

person’s experiences. Subsequently, this allows for better relationships among co-workers, ultimately leading towards improved productivity in the workplace.

Hopefully, the participants from this workshop will apply the information to their own unique circumstances at their workplaces and in their daily lives.

NJADARA wishes to thank DDHH for providing sign language interpreters and the Library for the Blind for providing assistive listening devices for the workshop.

Mark your calendars! NJADARA will host its next workshop on Friday, February 24, 2006 at the East Brunswick Library. The title of the workshop has not yet been determined, but the basic topic pertains to addressing situations where human services professionals are asked to take on the role of interpreter. They are actually there to job coach, provide case management, advocate, counsel or teach. This should be a very exciting topic, with discussions on various scenarios and how to firmly and professionally discuss why the professional should or should not interpret in certain situations. Of course, networking opportunities will be provided as this is one of the purposes of NJADARA. For information or to be added to NJADARA mailing list, contact Michelle Cline, NJ ADARA President at [michelle-cline@tmail.com](mailto:michelle-cline@tmail.com), or [www.adara.org](http://www.adara.org).

## Family Learning Conference Held at MKSD

The New Jersey Family Learning Conference: “Empowering Parents of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children,” the first conference of its kind in NJ, took place on Saturday October 29, 2005 on the



campus of Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf (MKSD) in the high school. Thirty-six parents of deaf and hard of hearing children participated in various workshops during the day-long conference such

as Advocating for your Children’s Rights, Technological Advancements, Language Development, and Transitions in Education. The lively keynote address was delivered by Mark Drolsbaugh, author of *Deaf Again* and *Anything But Silent*. The information-filled day closed with a Parent Panel and gave parents opportunity to

learn from their peers. Child care was provided for those who attended.

The New Jersey Family Learning Conference was sponsored by the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf, the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN), Camden Community College Northeast Technical Assistance Center and the College of New Jersey. These organizations look forward to repeating this day’s success in future years!





# Communicator Signboard

McCarter Theatre  
91 University Place  
Princeton NJ 08540

## A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens  
Adapted by David Thompson  
Directed by Michael Unger  
Choreography by Rob Ashford

**Saturday, December 17 - 1:00 p.m.**

**(Audio & ASL Interpreted Performance) Tickets: \$10**

For more information and to purchase tickets visit [www.mccarter.org](http://www.mccarter.org) or  
call (609) 258-ARTS Voice, (609) 252-0915 TTY

Gloucester County Community Church

## 8th Annual Deaf Christmas Party

**Saturday, December 17**  
**12:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

A delicious meal of hot baked ham, cold cuts, and assorted side dishes.

**Admission: 10 years old and up - \$8**

**3 to 9 years old - \$5      Under 3 years - free      At door - \$10**

GCCC, 359 Chapel Heights Road, Washington Twp., NJ  
Mail to: Wilma Iezzi, 111 Hampshire Drive, Deptford, NJ 08096-4208

Check payable to: GCCC; Memo: Deaf Ministry

Questions: [roberthi39@aol.com](mailto:roberthi39@aol.com) or [wilmacow17@aol.com](mailto:wilmacow17@aol.com)

# Communicator Signboard

## THE LION KING

From a Christian Family Perspective!

Simba, the Lion teaches important family values of courage, loyalty and hope for both young and old! Join the Ministry with the Deaf to watch and discuss this movie and enjoy pizza, popcorn, soda and 50/50 chances!

**Sunday, January 22, 2006**

**12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

St. Gregory's School, 340 E. Evesham Avenue (corner of Route 30) Magnolia, NJ 08049

**Cost: (Pay at door) \$5 per person, \$15 per family**

**RSVP by January 17, 2006**

Info: (856) 795-6481 V/TTY, (856) 482-5657 Fax, [deafministrynj@yahoo.com](mailto:deafministrynj@yahoo.com)

New Jersey Performing Arts Center

## Sweet Honey In The Rock

ASL Interpreted Performance:

**Saturday, December 17 at 8:00 p.m.**

**Tickets: G\$50 P\$50 A\$44 B\$36 C\$28 D\$17**

## EVITA

Open Captioned Performance:

**Wednesday, December 21 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Tickets: G\$56 P\$56 A\$50 B\$42 C\$34 D\$20**

## CATS

**25th Anniversary Tour Open Captioned Performance:**

**Wednesday, February 1 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Tickets: G\$56 P\$56 A\$50 B\$42 C\$34 D\$20**

[www.njpac.org](http://www.njpac.org), 888-GO-NJPAC Voice, 877-886-5722 TTY, (973) 642-5229 Fax  
1 Center Street, Newark, NJ

# Communicator Signboard

## Gingo Night

Hosted by Deaf Ministry

**Saturday, January 14, 2006**

**6:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.**

**Game starts at 7:30 p.m.**

**\$7 per person if paid in advance**

**\$10 per person if paid at door**

**50/50 Chances!**

St. John of God School Gym, 1145 Delsea Drive (Route 47) Westville, NJ 08093

**Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. No early birds please! If paying at door, cash only.**

**Food will be on sale during intermission. No outside food & beverages allowed.**

Info: (856) 795-6481V/TTY, (856) 482-5657 Fax, [deafministrynj@yahoo.com](mailto:deafministrynj@yahoo.com)

Make check or money order payable to Deaf Ministry and mail with your name, address, and e-mail address to: 525 Doe Lane, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

**NOTE: ADULTS ONLY (21 years old and up)**

**Mail no later than January 7, 2006.**

**No children! No refunds!**

Atlantic County Society of the Deaf

## Christmas Dinner

VFW, 601 N. Dorest Ave., Ventnor NJ 08406

**Saturday, December 10, 2005 6 p.m.**

**Reservation only! No Tickets sold at door.**

**Deadline: December 5, 2005 No refunds**

**Party dress-up (no jeans) ADULTS ONLY**

**Buffet style by Tasty Buds Catering-Hot roast beef, meatballs, baked ziti, chicken parm, rolls tossed salad with dressing, sheet cake coffee & wine**

**Donation: Member - \$15 Non member - \$22**

Mail the payment to: Atlantic County Society of the Deaf,

C/O Christmas Diner, PO Box, 3088, Margate NJ 08402

Make money order/check payable to: A.C.S.D.

**Bank Nite Giveaway**

**Merry Christmas Money In Envelope**

**Christmas Prizes Chinese Auction**



# Communicator Signboard

## The Hearing Society

First Baptist Church  
PO Box 2534  
Westfield, NJ 07091

Office hours from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
on Thursdays only.

Classes in Basic Sign Language are from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and Lip Reading is from 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Free to members of the Society.

December 15th is the tentative date set for the holiday  
Pot Luck luncheon. For more information please call  
The Hearing Society at (908) 233-0266 V/TTY.

Please join us at First United Methodist Church  
Camden and Pleasant Valley Avenues  
Moorestown, NJ 08057

**Each Sunday morning: 9:30 a.m.**  
**Contemporary Worship**

ASL interpreted, ALDs available - request from ushers  
Casual dress.

Contact (856) 235-0450 Voice

# Calendar of Events 2006

## August 2006

### First Time Trip to Israel Jewish Deaf Singles Registry

Jewish deaf and hard of hearing singles  
and married couples.

**Register early to get in.**

*Landau9optonline.net*

(908) 352-7395 Fax

## DDHH Advisory Council Meeting

**Friday, January 27**

East Brunswick Public Library

Info: 800-792-8339 V/TTY

**DDHH Office Closed December 26, January 2, 16, February 13, 20  
Regular Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

NJ DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0074

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